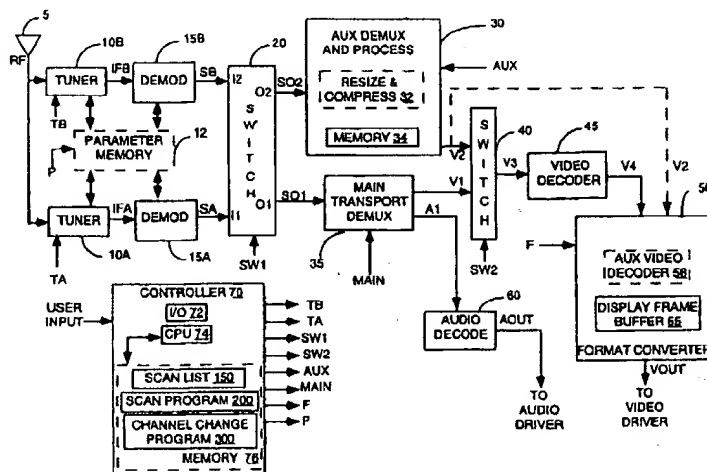




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H04N 7/14, 5/44, 5/50, 7/01, 7/093, 7/08, 9/79, 7/084, 7/173, 5/45, 5/76, H04B 1/16, G11B 8/00		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/16247
			(43) International Publication Date: 1 April 1999 (01.04.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/20315		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 28 September 1998 (28.09.98)		Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	
(30) Priority Data: 60/060,112 26 September 1997 (26.09.97) US 08/978,018 25 November 1997 (25.11.97) US			
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(54) Title: CHANNEL SCANNING AND CHANNEL CHANGE LATENCY REDUCTION IN AN ATSC TELEVISION RECEIVER



(57) Abstract

The method and apparatus for masking program selection latency in an MPEG equivalent information stream receiver, such as an ATSC or DVB television receiver (FIG. 1). An information stream receiver receives VSB or QAM modulated signals comprising an MPEG equivalent system streams including program transport streams. In a channel scanning mode of operation, a plurality of identified program transport streams (i.e., channels) are sequentially retrieved from one or more system streams (FIG. 2). In a channel changing mode of operation, if a desired channel is one of the sequentially scanned channels, then the stored I-frame is retrieved and coupled to a decoder while the desired channel is reacquired by tuning, demodulating, and demultiplexing operations (FIG. 3). In this manner, the inherent latency of the tuning, demodulating, and demultiplexing operations are somewhat masked. Moreover, by storing tuning and demodulation parameters associated with an anticipated next channel, the actual time required to retrieve that channel is reduced.